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no individual is, in reality, separated from the activity of others; he is not a mechanical, exclusive unit. Self-adjustability is implied in the concept of a conscious individual. The error of the day is in regarding man as a mechanical being, isolated, unconscious of external relations. When men are conscious and intelligent they make adjustments and arrive at harmony.

Two mechanical units, like two billiard balls, are mutually exclusive, and individualistic, and their relations are determined by present force; but conscious activity is determined at any moment by the present, past, and future. Consciousness involves selection, and the result is a force of personal activity. Society is the outcome of conscious individual aims; therefore, the individual is not the product of the social order. Wider social activity means only a wider social consciousness of the individual. By way of illustration, we are reminded that independence of thought and character are indispensable for any truly social life.

After justifying his views against the usual analysis of eighteenth-century thought, and against Dewey and Tufts, the author proceeds to a discussion more interesting to the economist of Individual Rights and Social Reform (p. 231). The only basis for "natural rights" is that a man is a conscious agent. In his treatment of consciousness as a matter of degree, and therefore of individual right as also a matter of degree, he rests the assertion of individual rights not on social approval, but upon inner consistency. Thus, as regards the relation of labor to capital, the public has no rights because it is a public. That is, a right is determined, not by the state, but by the intelligence of the individual. A "social contract" is involved in the very idea of the social relations of conscious beings.

In this part of his treatment, and in the application to the question of individualism and socialism, the author is especially interesting and illuminating. The whole volume is fresh, original, and instructive, and deals with most timely topics. It is worth study.

L.

The Great States of South America. By CHARLES W. DOMVILLE-FIFE.

London: G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., 1910. Pp. xv+235. 12s. 6d. net.

In an endeavor to portray the opportunities of the British merchant and capitalist in South America the author of this volume attempts to compress a topographical, political, and commercial survey of nearly half a continent with an area of about seven million square miles and a population of sixty millions into the brief space of about two hundred pages—a task so difficult that few modern writers would willingly undertake it.

The writer has given a comparatively brief résumé of his extensive subject, rather than a close and thorough investigation. The scope of the work has made necessary the exclusion of almost everything but bare facts; it was not necessary, however, to employ a brevity of phrase which not only sacrifices literary style but is in many cases obscure. Thus (p. 24): "The average annual value imports and exports from and into the Republic is approximately \$120,000,000 and \$200,000,000 respectively, which is an increase on the right side." On p. 90 we get a concise view of the government of Bolivia: "The constitution of Bolivia

is based on the unitarian system of central government, there being two houses, one of Senators and the other of Deputies."

A glaring defect in the work is the failure to adhere to one system of currency, of weights, and of measures. One would think the author imagined the reader carried a purse in which pounds, shillings, pence, dollars, cents, francs, so much in gold and so much in South American paper money were thrown in together. Pounds and kilograms unite in the same sentence as do acres and hectares, not to speak of miles and kilometers, uniting to form one vast railroad. Such confusion is about sufficient to destroy the aim of the book. The masses who might read it with credence and enthusiasm would soon tire when confronted with such mental torture.

Seventy-two excellent illustrations and eight maps accompany the text. Toward the close of the work is a rather brief discussion of the Central American International Bureau; this is followed by a rather emphatic statement on the tariff problem in South America, but the author, being thoroughly English in every other respect, could not be expected to think otherwise than he does on this question. Concerning the correctness of the details in this work the reviewer cannot judge, and the sources of information are never given. If these had been stated the real aim of the work might have been furthered by thus opening the avenues of investigation to interested capital.

Les régies municipales. By EMILE BOUVIER. Paris: Octave Doin et Fils, 1910. 8vo, pp. v+443+xii. Fr. 5 net.

Though *Les Régies municipales* is a treatment of "municipal ownership" with respect particularly to France, yet it is not devoid of general interest.

The book is divided into three parts with a very brief introduction containing an account of the results of the investigations upon this subject carried on, in England, by a parliamentary commission and, in the United States, by the National Civic Federation. In the first part of the book, the author discusses the causes leading to municipal control of public utilities. Briefly stated, these causes are financial, political, social, and economic. The chief advantage that the author sees in a system of municipal control of public utilities is that they serve as a source of revenue to the government of the city. In support of this statement a considerable, but none too carefully analyzed, array of facts and figures are taken from England, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and other countries where "municipal control" has been developed.

The second part is perhaps the least interesting to the general student. It deals wholly with the juristic aspect of the question and is in relation to the laws of France. It is interesting to note that in spite of the opinions of some prominent jurists, the author concludes that in assuming control of its public utilities a municipality is guilty of no violation of the laws in France.

The last part of the book contains a discussion of the limits of "municipal undertakings." In contrast with the conclusions reached by the National Civic Federation, the author concludes that a municipality is not necessarily limited by the character or magnitude of enterprises which it might choose to undertake. The success of such undertakings, however, depends entirely upon their organization upon a solid commercial and economic basis, meaning by this, that the ad-